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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Procurement and Supply of POL and Food/The  
Use of Remount and Materials Handling  
Equipment in the Soviet Army

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Each ministry draws up its own POL requirements which are coordinated in the Ministry of Petroleum Industry, USSR, Moscow, with the military receiving priority in allocations. Quality of products are determined by the Gosudarstvennyy Obshchegosoyuznyy Standart (GOST - State All-Union Standard). Glavneftesbyt is the agency of the government responsible for storage and distribution of all POL products and is the source of supply to the Army. Units may draw their POL quotas from the local Glavneftesbyt as directed or when operationally feasible.

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The only pipelines in the country are used for crude petroleum. These are mainly in the Caucasus Mountains-Black Sea area. A more recent pipeline leading from Rostov to Voronezh was intended to be extended to Moscow but was discontinued in 1951.

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The Army has its own POL handling equipment, and establishes its own motor pools.

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The Army has 3,000-3,500-liter-capacity tanks which are mounted on ZIS-150 chassis. US gasoline trailers were used during World War II. Four-axle railroad tank cars of 40 tons capacity are considered standard rail equipment. Some two-axle cars of 16-20 tons capacity are also used. Steel drums of 100, 200, and 250 kilograms capacity are used both for gasoline and oils. Drums of 50 kilograms capacity are also used for greases. Wooden barrels are not used. The 200 kilogram capacity drum was the standard POL container prior to and during World War II. During World War II the 20 liter gasoline can was developed, which is modelled along the lines of the German "jerrican". POL dispensing is accomplished by means of gravity, siphoning, and funnels.

Comment: The employment of tank trucks cannot be definitely confirmed. The handbook on the employment of fuel-lubricating materials prepared by the Main Artillery Administration of the Red Army in 1945 gives detailed information on transport and storage of POL only in the form of drums and containers of 20, 250, 1300, and 5700 liters capacity. Wooden barrels of 225 liters capacity are also given as standard equipment.

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As in the case of POL, requirements are drawn up and consolidated in Moscow. The Ministry of Trade is the principal agency in such matters. In the case of the Merchant Fleet, demands are made on the local Trade Office for local supply. Such transactions are cleared via book transfers and settling of accounts. the same procedure holds true for the Army.

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Ordinarily only fish is canned for civilian consumption with all other products being preserved in glass. The widespread use of glass for preserving food is due to: (a) economy of metals; (b) desire on the part of the purchaser to see the preserved product; and (c) the standing policy of granting refunds of the deposit paid on glass containers. Emergency reserves in the Merchant Fleet consist of canned goods only, among which are: fish, condensed meats, fruits, vegetables, and concentrates in packages, e.g., porridge. is the principal canned product for Army use. In the Army, since little or no refrigeration is used, storage of meats is usually made in smoke houses. In Leipzig, Germany, the Soviet Army has a central meat conservatory. Professor (fnu) Lavinson is considered the foremost Soviet authority on refrigeration.

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In the Soviet Union animals constitute the basic transportation in the Army, followed by US Dodge, Studebaker, and GMC trucks. The horse is called "the ZIS with a tail" in the Army.

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The Kalmytskaya, a Mongolian horse, is a small work horse with great endurance. The Donchek, a large horse found in the Ukraine of a Scottish and English breed crossed with the Orel breed, and the Kirghisin, a Tartan /sic- Tatar?/ horse. Donkeys and camels are used, but no mules. There are more camels in Astrakhan than horses. Two-humped camels are found in the Astrakhan area and Kazakh; the one-humped type is found in Uzbek and Turkmen. They are used to pull carts and wagons, and to form caravans. The Cossacks are the best camel handlers.

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Comment: [redacted] statement that mules are not used in Army as pack animals contradicts information in the Soviet Encyclopedia published by the Soviet government (1952), which states that the mule is hardy and practically refuses to take second place behind the camel as a pack animal. The encyclopedia reports that the mule is preferred to the horse for pack purposes because it does not get saddle sores, while horses have great numbers of them.

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[redacted] the Soviet Army wagon [redacted]

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[redacted] has four wheels, two axles, and outward sloping sides, essentially identical to the German Army's panjewagon.

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The forklift is known as the Avtopogruzhehik (Automatic loader).

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